

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 DRC-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 /097 W

----- 042706

O 071736Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2497

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD AND OPS AND AEAGG-OCO IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS IMMEDIATE

USELMLO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1737

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, WB, GE, UR

SUBJECT: OVERDUE AUTOBAHN TRAVELLER

1. SSG CHARLES L. PEAK, A/3/6TH IN, WHO DEPARTED CHECK-
POINT ALPHA ENROUTE TO BERLIN AT 1715 ALPHA OCTOBER 6,
FAILED TO ARRIVE AT CHECKPOINT BRAVO BY 2045 ALPHA
DEADLINE. AT 2145 BERLIN AUTOBAHN OPERATIONS CHECKED
WITH SOVIET CHECKPOINT DREWITZ, AND WAS INFORMED THAT
PEAK HAD NOT PROCESSED THERE. SOVIET DUTY OFFICER SAID
THAT HE WOULD NOTIFY VOPOS SO THAT THEY COULD BE ON
LOOK-OUT FOR PEAK'S VEHICLE.

2. NO WORD HAVING BEEN RECEIVED FROM SOVIETS BY 2350,
A USMLM PATROL WAS DESPATCHED TO SEARCH FOR OVERDUE
TRAVELLER. PATROL RETURNED TO POTSDAM AT 0315 OCTOBER
7 TO REPORT THAT DESIGNATED ROUTE HAD BEEN SEARCHED
WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. PMO SPECIAL OPERATIONS WAS
THEREUPON INSTRUCTED TO CHECK AGAIN WITH SOVIET
CHECKPOINT DREWITZ, AND TO REMIND THEM THAT
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PEAK WAS NOW EIGHT HOURS OVERDUE. CONSULTATION

WITH DUTY OFFICER AT DREWITZ REVEALED THAT SOVIET-EAST GERMAN SEARCH WAS STILL GOING ON. US OFFICER TOOK OCCASION TO REMIND SOVIETS THAT US AUTHORITIES HELD SOVIET AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFE PASSAGE OF PROPERLY DOCUMENTED MEMBERS OF US FORCES ON BERLIN-HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN. AT FIRST LIGHT OCTOBER 7 TWO FURTHER USMLM PATROLS WERE DESPATCHED ON NORMAL SEARCH ROUTE FOR LOST TRAVELLER.

3. AT 0810 OCTOBER 7 WEST BERLIN POLICE CONTACTED CHECKPOINT CHARLIE TO REPORT THAT WEST GERMAN TRAVELLER HAD SEEN VEHICLE WITH US FORCES LICENSE PLATE, SURROUNDED BY SEVERAL VOPOS, AT EXIT FROM BERLINER RING (IN GDR, BUT NEAR EAST BERLIN). AT APPROX 1130 ROUTINE PATROL RETURNING FROM EAST BERLIN THROUGH CHECKPOINT CHARLIE WAS INFORMED BY SOVIET OFFICER THAT SSG PEAK WAS IN HIS CUSTODY AND WAS REQUESTED TO ARRANGE FOR HIM TO BE PICKED UP. MP'S ENTERED EAST BERLIN AND ESCORTED PEAK BACK. AT SAME TIME SOVIET OFFICER REQUESTED THAT PEAK'S VEHICLE, WHICH COULD NOT BE MOVED UNDER OWN POWER, BE TOWED AWAY THAT DAY. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE WITH USMLM FOR TOWING.

4. PEAK'S SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT REVEALED THAT HE HAD MISSED SECOND TURN ON AUTOBAHN AND HAD CONTINUED DRIVING UNTIL HE SAW SIGN FOR POLAND. AT THIS POINT HE TURNED BACK, AND THEN PULLED OFF ROAD BECAUSE OF LOW FUEL SUPPLY. HE FILLED OUT STANDARD BREAKDOWN SLIP, BUT FOUND NO NON-EAST GERMAN DRIVER TO RECEIVE IT, AND SPENT NIGHT IN VEHICLE. AT 0700 VOPOS APPROACHED VEHICLE AND MOTIONED FOR PEAK TO MOVE ON. PEAK REQUESTED SOVIET OFFICER, WHO ARRIVED AT 0930. WHEN EFFORTS TO GET PEAK'S CAR TO START FAILED, SOVIET OFFICER DROVE HIM TO CHECKPOINT CHARLIE. ACCORDING TO PEAK, SOVIETS WERE EXTREMELY POLITE AND COURTEOUS THROUGHOUT.

5. USCOB CONCURS.KLEIN

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